

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicant will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because the recitation "the connection" lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,690,410 ("the Mochida patent"). The applicant respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

Since claim 2 has been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot with respect to claim 2.

Independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, are not anticipated by the Mochida patent because the Mochida patent does not teach a component or means for restricting a signal processing according to a user-operable switch which is used to allow the user to control signal processing. Since claims 3-8 depend from claim 1, and since claim 9 depends from claim 8, these claims are similarly not anticipated by the Mochida patent.

Further regarding claims 4-6 and 8, the Mochida patent does not teach a restricting unit that restricts indication of a feature that achieves the processing to be restricted. In the Mochida patent, the expansion control screen 40a (Fig. 44) merely indicates the type of expansion board attached to the main board (col. 30, lines: 51-59; of the '198 patent). For instance, if an enlargement expansion board is connected to the main board in the system of the Mochida patent, the expansion control screen simply indicates that the expansion board is attached and available for use (i.e., electronic zooming). In such a situation, the system would not restrict the zooming of a low-pixel endoscope image. On the other hand, the present invention offers enlargement regardless of whether an expansion board is connected to the main board or not. Also, in such an example as mentioned above, the present invention may restrict any type of electronic zooming of a low-pixel endoscope image by restricting indication of such a feature **despite the**

fact that zooming capabilities are available. The present invention may restrict such indication by hatching screen menus available by the endoscope, hatching keyboard buttons and switches on endoscope control panels, and using LED indicators.

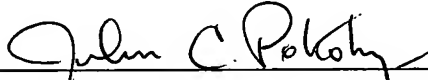
Thus, claims 4-6 and 8 are not anticipated by the Mochida patent for at least this additional reason.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

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